

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 19867 01 OF 02 031252Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CU-04

SS-15 PRS-01 PA-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8972

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 19867

FOR EUR/WE; ALSO CU/WE AND CU/IVP/V FOR INFO

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT IT US, OTRA OEXC

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT BY DC PARTY OFFICIAL

SUMMARY: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT (DC) PARTY SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI HAS REQUESTED HIS HEAD OF SECRETARIAT, DEPUTY GIUSEPPE PISANU, TO VISIT NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON, DEC. 10-17 TO EXPLORE WAYS IN WHICH THE DC CAN IMPROVE ITS IMAGE ABROAD AND MAKE LONG-NEGLECTED CONTACTS WITH AMERICAN DECISION MAKERS AND OPINION-MOLDERS. THE DC HAS REQUESTED THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN FACILITATING PISANU'S TRIP, WHICH WILL ALSO LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY OF A ZACCAGNINI VISIT NEXT MARCH.
END SUMMARY.

1. BACKGROUND. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT (DC) LEADERS HAVE LONG RESPONDED FAVORABLY, IN PRINCIPLE, TO SUGGESTIONS THAT THE PARTY DEVELOP USEFUL, DIRECT CONTACTS WITH GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS, MEDIA, AND ACADEMIC LEADERS IN THE UNITED STATES. SO FAR, HOWEVER, ONLY A FEW DC LEADERS (DE CAROLIS AND OTHER YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS) HAVE ACTUALLY MADE THE EFFORT, RECOGNIZING THAT THE COMMUNISTS, IN CONTRAST, RARELY MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE
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PAGE 02 ROME 19867 01 OF 02 031252Z

IN SEMINARS, LECTURE-SERIES AND THE LIKE. THE RECENT SESSIONS IN ROME WITH BUSINESS LEADERS, SPONSORED BY BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL, APPEARS TO HAVE CONVINCED THE DC LEADERSHIP (MORO AND ZACCAGNINI) OF THE VITAL NEED TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM FOR CONTACTS WITH LEADING AMERICAN DECISION AND OPINION-MAKERS ON AN URGENT BASIS.

2. VISIT OBJECTIVES. PARTY SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI HAS REQUESTED

HIS HEAD OF SECRETARIAT, DEPUTY GIUSEPPE PISANU, TO VISIT WASHINGTON (AND NEW YORK, IF DEEMED USEFUL) THE WEEK OF DEC. 12 AS AN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PARTY FOR EXPLORATIVE AND OPERATIONAL DISCUSSIONS AS TO HOW A DC "CONTACTS-USA" PROGRAM COULD BEST BE DEvised. PISANU WILL HAVE THREE OBJECTIVES. FIRST, HE WILL SEEK ADVICE ON HOW THE DC CAN BEST REACH US MEDIA AND OPINIONMAKERS IN AN EFFORT TO REFURBISH THE DC'S POOR IMAGE ABROAD. AS PART OF THIS EFFORT (DIRECTED EQUALLY TO WESTERN EUROPE), THE DC PLANS PUBLICATION OF A WEEKLY NEWS REVIEW IN ENGLISH, FRENCH, GERMAN AND SPANISH. SECONDLY, PISANU WILL SEEK ADVICE ON HOW SOME 15 TO 20 POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, ACADEMIC, TRADE UNION AND CULTURAL LEADERS COULD BE PROGRAMMED, INDIVIDUALLY OR IN GROUPS, THROUGHOUT THE US OVER THE COMING TWO TO THREE MONTH PERIOD. POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES COULD BE LECTURE TOURS (COUNCILS ON FOREIGN RELATIONS), ACADEMIC CONTACTS, MEDIA LUNCHES ETC. PISANU MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF PARTICIPATION BY MINISTERS ANSELMi AND STAMMATI, POLITICAL LEADERS CALLONI AND BODRATO; ECONOMIC LEADERS SUCH AS UMBERTO AGNELLI, BASSETTI, ANDREATTA, AND BUDGET UNDERSECRETARY SCOTTI, INTELLECTUALS SUCH AS PIERO SCOPPOLA; AND TRADE UNIONISTS LIKE CISL MINORITY LEADER MARINI. ALL, ACCORDING TO PISANU, WOULD BE "AUTHORITATIVE" EXPONENTS OF THE "NEW DC" (NOTE: ONLY A FEW SPEAK ENGLISH).

3. THIRDLY, PISANU WILL ASSESS ADVISABILITY OF ARRANGING A VISIT BY PARTY SECRETARY SACCAGNINI AS A CULMINATION OF THE FOREGOING DC "OFFENSIVE". PISANU WILL SEEK THE DEPARTMENT'S FRANK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ROME 19867 01 OF 02 031252Z

ASSESSMENT OF THE UTILITY OF A ZACCAGNINI VISIT WHICH COULD OCCUR ON THE DC SECRETARY'S RETURN FROM A PLANNED VISIT TO VENEZUELA IN MARCH. IN ZACCAGNINI'S CASE, PISANU SAID THAT MEDIA ASPECTS OF A ZACCAGNINI VISIT WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR.

4. IN ADDITION, PISANU HOPES TO GAIN A FIRST-HAND IMPRESSION OF US VIEWS ON THE ITALIAN SITUATION GENERALLY AS WELL AS ATTITUDES TOWARD THE DC IN PARTICULAR. WE BELIEVE THAT PISANU'S INTERLOCUTORS WILL FIND HIM EXCEPTIONALLY WELL-INFORMED AND WELL-CONNECTED. IN ADDITION TO BEING ZACCAGNINI'S HEAD OF SECRETARIAT AND PERSONAL CONFIDANT, PISANU IS VERY CLOSE TO MORO. FIRST ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT IN 1972, PISANU IS A SARDINIAN (BORN NEAR SASSARI IN 1937) AND A ZACCAGNINI REFORMIST" (IE. RETURN TO THE DC'S MORAL CATHOLIC-"POPULIST" ROOTS AS OPPOSED TO THE MODERNIST LIBERAL-DEMOCRATS SUCH AS AGNELLI, SEGNI, AND MAZZOTTA).

5. PISANU'S VISIT ALSO OFFERS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TO REINFORCE US POLICY CONCERNS AS WELL AS THE NEED FOR GREATER PROGRESS IN DC RENEWAL. PISANU IS ONE OF THE FEW DC LEADERS OF HIS GENERATION WHO HAS A DAILY ENTREE WITH MORO AND ZACCAGNINI. BEFORE FOR THE US, PISANU SAID THAT HE WILL HAVE

SEPARATE PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH ANDREOTTI, MORO AND ZACCAGNINI.

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PAGE 01 ROME 19867 02 OF 02 031259Z

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 ROME 19867

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6. FINALLY, PISANU WISHES EXPLORE US ATTITUDES TOWARD SOUTH AMERICAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PARTIES IN THE LIGHT OF ADMINISTRATION'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES. THE DC'S LEFT WING HAS LONG BEEN FASCINATED WITH IDEA THAT DC COULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT MORAL LEADERSHIP ROLE AMONG LATIN DC PARTIES (A MAJORITY IN THE DC, HOWEVER, OPPOSE SUCH "THIRD WORLDIST" POLICIES AS DETRACTING FROM ITALY'S BASIC ATLANTIC AND EUROPEAN ORIENTATION). COMMENT: WHILE PISANU SHOULD BE HEARD OUT ON THIS, RECOMMEND THAT HE BE GENTLY BUT FIRMLY TOLD THAT DC WOULD DO BEST BY CONCENTRATING ENERGIES ON ITALY'S CRITICAL PROBLEMS.

7. PROGRAM SUGGESTION. DESPITE HIGHLY REGRETABLE LACK OF ADVANCE WARNING, WE HOPE DEPARTMENT CAN ASSIST PISANU IN MAKING USEFUL APPOINTMENTS IN LINE WITH VISIT OBJECTIVES. ITALIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON BEING ADVISED OF TRIP AND SHOULD BE ABLE ASSIST IN SCHEDULING. IN DEPARTMENT, STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT DEPUTY ASST. SECRETARY BARBOUR SEE PISANU FOR DISCUSSION OF ITALIAN SITUATION AND DC RENEWAL. (PARA. 5); IN THIS CONNECTION, CALL ON NSC SENIOR STAFF MEMBER ROBERT HUNTER WOULD ALSO BE MOST EFFECTIVE. REGARDING OPERATIONAL CONCERNS (PRIMARY FOCUS OF VISIT), RECOMMEND MEETINGS WITH EUR/WE (ROWELL AND MCKINLEY), INR,
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PAGE 02 ROME 19867 02 OF 02 031259Z

CU/WE, AND POLICY PLANNING. IN ADDITION, SUGGEST APPOINTMENT WITH APPROPRIATE ARA OFFICE RE. PISANU'S INTEREST IN LATIN DC PARTIES (PARA. 6).

8. IF CONGRESS STILL IN SESSION, RECOMMEND SOME APPOINTMENTS ON HILL. IF AVAILABLE, SENATOR BROOKE AND CONGRESSWOMAN FENWICK (LATTER SPEAKS ITALIAN) HAVE BOTH INDICATED WILLINGNESS SEE ITALIAN DEPUTIES. CONGRESSMAN MAZZOLI (KENTUCKY) COULD PROVIDE PISANU WITH SPECIAL FOCUS OF ITALIAN-AMERICAN CONGRESSIONAL GROUP..

9. MEDIA. UNIVERSITIES AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS INSTITUTIONS. HERE TOO, DESPITE LIMITATIONS OF TIME, URGE STRONG EFFORT TO ARRANGE SOME APPONTMENTS WITH WORKING LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES TO PERMIT PISANU EVALUATE POSSIBILITIES FOR DC SPEAKING TOURS, INSTITUTE APPEARANCES, ACADEMIC CONTACTS AND THE LIKE. IN WASHINGTON, SUGGEST JOHNS COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS APPEARS ESSENTIAL TO US FOR PROGRAMMING DISCUSSIONS. IF POSSIBLE, APPONTMENT WITH AT LEAST ONE SERIOUS ITALIANIST WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF ACADEMIC APPEARANCES. ON SEN. ANDREATTA'S ADVICE, PISANU WOULD LIKE DEPT. ARRANGE APPOINTMENT WITH LUIGI EINAUDI.

10. OTHER ASSISTANCE REQUESTED. PISANU WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY RAI JOURNALIST DR. VITTORIO FOLLINI WHO WILL MONITOR DC'S NEW MEDIA RELATIONS PROGRAM AND EDIT NEW FOREIGN LANGUAGE WEEKLY. BOTH WILL ARRIVE IN NEW YORK ON SATURDAY, DEC. 10 AND PLAN UTILIZE SUNDAY DEC. 11 FOR REST. THEY WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR NEW YORK APPOINTMENTS (COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS) MONDAY DEC. 12 MORNING FLIGHT TO WASHINGTON FOR APPOINTMENTS BEGINNING MONDAY AFTERNOON. THEY DEPART FOR ITALY DEC . 17; NEW YORK APPOINTMENTS COULD THEREFORE ALSO BE SCHEDULED FOR DEC. 16. REQUEST APPROPRIATE HOTEL RESERVATIONS (AT VISITORS' EXPENSE), TWO SINGLES, IN NEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ROME 19867 02 OF 02 031259Z

YORK AND WASHINGTON PER FOREGOING SCHEDULE OUTLINE. WILL ADVISE FLIGHT DATA ASAP.

11. FINALLY, IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE EMBASSY ATTACHES TO THIS VISIT, WHICH IS FULLY CONSISTENT WITH OUR POLICY OBJECTIVES IN ENCOURAGING DC RENEWAL AND MODERNIZATION, STRONGLY RECOMMEND ASSIGNMENT OF ESCORT-INTERPRETOR AT LEAST FOR WASHINGTON SCHEDULE. NEITHER PISANU NOR FOLLINI SPEAK ENGLISH.GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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